

Torrance, California
September 25, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 25, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 11, 1945, and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held September 17, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, calling attention to three separate situations and requesting an investigation of them, as follows:

(1) proposed establishment of a business in the old recreation building in WALTERIA, claiming that the building is a condemned one and in an A-1 zone;

(2) expiration of the 90-day permit granted Mr. Reynolds for occupancy of a trailer on Newton Street, WALTERIA, claiming that no construction has started on the building he was to have built; and

(3) requesting installation of a culvert at the corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and 240th Street prior to the winter season.

Councilman Cucci moved that the three requests submitted by the WALTERIA Civic Organization be referred to the City Engineer for investigation and report at the next meeting, Engineer to be granted authority to take whatever action is necessary in connection with the request for the culvert in the meantime. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, requesting the Council to file with the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors a protest against any form or type of oil drilling or development either on or adjacent to the Alondra Park site, North Torrance, it having been brought to the attention of the Gardena Valley Chamber that an application for permit to drill has been filed with the Board of Supervisors.

Councilman Powell moved that the matter be referred to the entire City Council for study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the League of California Cities, signed by Richard Graves, Executive Secretary, advising that he will do everything possible to assist in the effort which is being put forth to continue Child Care Centers. He said he had been working with other interested groups to secure some modification of the policy of the Federal Government as expressed by the Federal Works Agency in the abrupt termination of federal support of these centers.

Councilman Cucci moved that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Torrance Branch Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, which two organizations have expressed active interest in the subject, and to other interested groups in order that they may know the matter is under discussion. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the American Red Cross, signed by Maude M. Kresse, Blood Bank Chairman, expressing appreciation for the use of the Civic Auditorium for Red Cross Blood Doner Service, and thanking the City for cooperation given their program. It was requested that sincere appreciation be conveyed to Mr. Brodie and his assistants for their excellent service and cooperation.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. James Brodie be furnished a copy of the letter. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Jeanett Kinser, 2224 Torrance Boulevard, requesting a license for a tea room on Hawthorne Boulevard.

Councilmen Gilbert, Cucci and Hitchcock asked whether or not there is anything to prohibit issuance of the license, Attorney McCall replying in the negative, whereupon Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted.

Councilman Cucci said he thought the matter should be looked into to determine the type of tea room it will be, at which time Mrs. Kinser, in the audience, addressed the Council and informed that it will be a "coffee shop to read tea leaves".

Councilman Gilbert's motion was lost for want of a second.

Councilman Powell moved that the request of Mrs. Kinser for a license to operate a tea room be referred to the Chief of Police for investigation and recommendation to the City Clerk, license to be either issued or denied by the Clerk according to the Chief's recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Bertha Woodard, 1217 Portola Avenue, requesting a license to operate a hot dog and hamburger stand on Lot 22 or 23, Block 4, Torrance Tract.

Councilman Cucci demanded to know why all requests for licenses are being presented to the City Council when there is a license ordinance governing issuance of business licenses, and asked where the above-described property is located.

Clerk Bartlett advised that the request from Mrs. Woodard was addressed to the City Council and is handled as a regular communication. Mrs. Woodard, in the audience, advised that the location is across the street from Daniel's Cafe on Cabrillo Avenue.

A question arose as to whether or not the Planning Commission should be involved in this matter, and also the matter of sanitation of a stand was discussed. Clerk Bartlett advised that the license ordinance specifically requires that an application for a highway

stand be brought before the Council, and that a permit from the Health Department must be presented to the Clerk before the license can be issued.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the City Engineer for report at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested advising Mrs. Woodard relative to the Health Department permit, whereupon she advised that she has operated a cafe before and understands all the regulations.

A communication was read from James Breneman, applying for refund of unused portion of Business License No. 506, enclosed with the letter, advising that he had sold his business.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the unused portion of the license be refunded. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from United Pacific Insurance Company, enclosing statement in the amount of \$942.09, being additional premium for insurance for Municipal Bus Lines, based upon an increase of 35% on the old rate.

Councilman Cucci voiced an objection to this high percentage increase, contending that an overall increase of 10% through out the City would be more equitable than a 35% increase affecting the Bus Lines only. Furthermore, he added, the representative had, in a previous conversation, indicated that this matter would be held over until the litigation relative to recent sale of the bus lines has been concluded and ownership established.

Councilman Gilbert said he did not understand the representative to say he would hold the matter over until the litigation is concluded, but until the Council could meet with the representatives for a discussion of the matter. He said he felt such a meeting should be arranged.

Councilman Powell remarked that this company is not the only one with which the City can negotiate its insurance business. He asked when the latest contract was made, the reply being that it had been renewed approximately two months ago. He asked whether or not it can be terminated upon the usual thirty day notice, the reply being in the affirmative.

Councilman Cucci moved that action be deferred on this matter in order that the Council may study it thoroughly and endeavor to arrive at a conclusion, and that the representatives of the insurance company be advised to this effect. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from E. T. Martin, requesting a temporary business license for a feed store at 24454 Hawthorne Boulevard, Waleria, until such time as the Planning Commission may grant a zoning variance.

Mr. Martin stated that, at the time of the purchase, he was unaware that the property had been rezoned to R-3 Zone, and had made an investment of quite a sum of money in stock and equipment for the business.

A communication from the Local Veteran Service Committee was attached, advising that Mr. Martin is a Veteran and was wounded in battle, and expressed the hope that the Council would assist him in his endeavors to become established.

Councilman Cucci moved that the temporary license as requested be granted, effective until such time as the Planning Commission rules on Mr. Martin's petition for zoning variance.

Councilman Gilbert interjected the thought that, although he had no particular objection to the granting of the license, he thought some standard should be adopted for ruling on applications for certain types of business licenses, and pointed out that action on two similar requests had been deferred earlier in the meeting.

Mr. George Thatcher of Waleria reported that Mr. Martin had obtained signatures of practically everyone within 300 feet of the proposed place of business signifying their willingness to allow this business.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded Councilman Cucci's motion to grant the temporary license while awaiting the determination of the Planning Commission relative to Mr. Martin's petition for zoning variance, which motion was carried, Councilman Gilbert casting a negative vote.

A communication was read from Joel Hagberg, President, State, County and Municipal Workers of America, Local 360, again requesting an increase in salary of \$25.00 per month for City Employees.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the communication be filed for future reference, and that the City Clerk be instructed to notify Mr. Hagberg of this action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the United Pacific Insurance Company, enclosing National Safety Council safe driver award for Mr. Harold C. Callihan, driver for the City of Torrance Bus Line. It was requested that the award be certified in the appropriate space provided, and presented to Mr. Callihan with the compliments and congratulations of all concerned for his fine record during the three-year period.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Chairman of the Bus Department Committee, Councilman Cucci, be delegated to present the award to Mr. Callihan.

Councilman Cucci declined and offered the substitute motion that Mayor Tolson be delegated to make the award. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Benjamin P. Weston, advising that the Weston Investment Company will not exercise its option with the United States Government to purchase the Lomita Air Strip.

Mayor Tolson announced that the City had, of recent date, received a telegram from the Congressman representing the interests of Torrance, advising that the Lomita Flight Strip had been placed on the surplus list. Mayor Tolson added that he had wired back to the effect that the City of Torrance is interested in acquiring the Strip, and requesting the Congressman to keep the City informed at all times relative to this subject.

Councilman Cucci moved that the communication, constituting a waiver, from Mr. Weston, be filed for future reference. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, recommending that some legislation be passed by the Council to prevent shop owners from sweeping debris, papers, vegetable trimmings, etc. off the sidewalk into the City gutters. He said deplorable conditions exist due to this practice, particularly over weekends when the street sweeping crew is off duty.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this matter be referred to the Ordinance Committee for study and action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, attaching plans and specifications of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District covering the, "Excavation of Dominguez Channel and Construction of Appurtenant Works Between Arlington Avenue and Denker Avenue". It was recommended by Mr. Jain that the following requests be complied with, as outlined by the Flood Control District: (1) That the plans and specifications attached to Mr. Jain's letter be approved; (2) That the necessary permission be granted to the Flood Control District to construct upon and to occupy all lands under jurisdiction of the City; and (3) That permission be granted to close Arlington Avenue during construction.

It was further requested by the Engineer that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District be notified immediately of action taken.

A short discussion ensued, Councilman Cucci objecting to the closing of Arlington Avenue, although, he said, he favors action upon all the requests with this one exception. It was pointed out however, that the portion of Arlington Avenue affected is traveled lightly, and that motorists will have access to other nearby streets.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the requests made by the Flood Control District, outlined above, be granted, upon recommendation of Mr. Jain, and that the City Clerk be authorized to inform the Los Angeles County Flood Control District of action taken. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Mutual Aid Plan, offered by the Los Angeles County Disaster Relief Authority, which was first presented at the September 11, 1945 meeting and referred to the City Attorney for recommendation, was again presented. Clerk Bartlett advised that, on September 21, 1945, Attorney McCall had approved the plan as to form, whereupon Mayor Tolson moved that the plan be accepted and approved, this being a plan for mutual aid on a county-wide basis, for assistance between cities and the County during a disaster or potential disaster period. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1745

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE
CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN
PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF
TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1745 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Municipal Bus Lines, advising that, effective October 1, 1945, the B. F. Goodrich Company will reimburse the City of Torrance 10% of the tire rental cost for our services in handling the work on the tires, said work to be done at the City Garage.

In connection with recent application of the General Petroleum Corporation for a service connection to the 16" Metropolitan Water District water main on the east side of Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance Refinery, a recommendation was presented and read from Water Superintendent Stanger, City Engineer Jain, and City Attorney McCall.

It was recommended that the District prepare an easement and submit it to the General Petroleum Corporation for their signature; said easement to grant the required right of way for construction, operation and maintenance of the affected facilities. It was further recommended that the City pay expenses of the installation to the Metropolitan Water District, and that General Petroleum Corporation reimburse the City for all payments made.

It was suggested that copies of this recommendation be mailed to Metropolitan Water District, stating that an early installation would be very much appreciated, and to General Petroleum Corporation for their records.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendations be accepted and concurred in, and that the suggestions be complied with. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of \$107.00, plus tax, be made for 200 feet booster line hose, 6 Indian pump can carrying straps, and 6 Indian pump can hold down straps, for the Fire Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that William F. Gibson be employed as a War Emergency employee, Patrolman, Police Department, effective October 1, 1945, at a salary of \$170.00 per month. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$53.50, plus tax, be made for 20,000 schedules for bus terminals from Torrance Herald. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Leslie L. Slaughter be employed as a Mechanic, Grade A, Bus Department Garage, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$225.00 per month, effective September 28, 1945. He said he understood this man represented a replacement of Mr. Snodgrass, resigned. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that the tire contract with the B. F. Goodrich Company be renewed, effective October 1, 1945, with the stipulation that the Company is to reimburse the City of Torrance 10% of the tire rental cost for the City's services in handling the work on the tires, work to be done at the City Garage. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that the contract with the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles for furnishing transportation of pupils residing in the Welteria area and requiring transportation from that area to Narbonne Avenue and Highway 101 in Lomita, be renewed, effective September 4, 1945, for the period of the 1945-46 school year. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At this point, Councilman Cucci opened the subject of taxicab operations in the City of Torrance, contending that inasmuch as the business license ordinance provides nothing more than a section establishing the license fee at \$12.00 per annum per vehicle, with no mention of Council control, that applicants should not be compelled to submit their requests for licenses to operate taxicabs to the City Council at all. He took the stand that Ordinance No. 235, the business license ordinance, being in full force and effect, and being the only legislation pertaining to licensing of taxicabs, governs, and until such time as this section of the ordinance, or the ordinance itself, is amended or repealed, anyone who may desire a taxicab license may obtain same under the terms of this governing ordinance. He asked Clerk Bartlett upon what authority had he refused to issue additional licenses to Marie Bruce for two more taxicabs, she having been granted permission to operate a cab service. Mr. Bartlett replied that, for many years, it has been the policy to have applications for taxicab licenses referred to the Council, in order that the proper control and regulation of this particular business by the police department might be simplified. He pointed out that this constitutes a traffic matter, and as such comes under the jurisdiction of the police department. Therefore, he added, when Miss Bruce applied for licenses for two additional taxicabs, he had no alternative but to follow the policy established by prior Councils and ask for Council decision on it.

Councilman Cucci adhered to his opinion that, regardless of verbal orders from present or past Councils, the City Clerk should comply fully with all ordinances.

Clerk Bartlett pointed out that, in carrying out the terms of whatever legislation is enacted, his only resort for assistance in case of question is the City Council. He said that, at various times, certain developments have presented questions and problems which he has, as his only alternative, brought before the City Council for clarification.

A very exhaustive and confusing discussion ensued... Police powers, among other subjects, were defined by the City Attorney, who stated that, although the police power is not mentioned in every ordinance in so many words, it is the natural understanding that the power does exist; otherwise the legislation would be of no avail.

When Councilman Cucci asked Mr. McCall whether or not a minute action of the Council supersedes an ordinance, or vice versa, he replied, "you just answered that question yourself awhile ago, Mr. Cucci."

Mr. McCall added that he will endeavor to have the new taxicab ordinance ready soon. He said a great deal of his time has been taken up by the litigation over sale of the Municipal Bus Lines, at which point Councilman Cucci indicated an Amended Writ of Mandamus in connection with this suit, served on the Council at this meeting, and handed Mr. McCall his (Mr. Cucci's) copy of this document.

Councilman Cucci conceded that Business License Ordinance 235 is obsolete, but, he said, his efforts to revise the ordinance some time ago had made little impression on others who would be called upon to help in this undertaking. He said he hoped that the new ordinance would cover every phase of the taxicab business satisfactorily, but that, until such time as that ordinance is adopted, Ordinance No. 235 governs. He read and re-read the section pertaining to taxicabs during the discussion.

In view of the fact that Ordinance No. 235 governs, he continued, the action taken at the last meeting to defer action on the application of Miss Bruce for licenses to operate additional taxicabs, pending completion of the new taxicab ordinance, was entirely out of order, as, he said, "You can't make that new ordinance retroactive." Furthermore, he said, competition would eliminate the inferior and leave the exceptionally good taxicabs for the convenience of the public.

After much more discussion, Councilman Powell moved that Miss Bruce be allowed to operate additional taxicabs, since Ordinance No. 235 governs at the present time, and does not restrict the business as to number of cabs. He voiced the opinion that he also hoped the new ordinance would be complete in every detail and serve the City satisfactorily in the future.

Councilman Cucci insisted that the above motion is superfluous, as Ordinance No. 235 grants this privilege without Council action, at which time Councilman Hitchcock suggested that perhaps what Councilman Powell had in mind was to rescind the action taken at the last meeting to defer action on Miss Bruce's application for licenses to operate additional taxicabs, which would place the entire matter back in a "status quo" - i.e., she would be in the position of having had her application for a license to operate a taxicab service granted by the City Council, and, under the terms of Ordinance No. 235, (according to Councilman Cucci's interpretation, and which has not been overruled,) she would be free to apply for and receive licenses for as many taxicabs as she wants.

Councilman Powell then moved that the action taken at the September 11, 1945 meeting to hold in abeyance the application of Miss Marie Bruce for licenses to operate additional taxicabs, pending completion of the new taxicab ordinance, be rescinded. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert and Hitchcock, ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell asked Attorney McCall whether or not a section of an ordinance can be repealed by motion, his reply being that an ordinance, or portion thereof, can be repealed only by another ordinance.

Councilman Gilbert continued the discussion by asking Councilman Powell, "is it your intention that anyone who so desires can go into the taxicab business tomorrow morning by applying for a license and paying the \$12.00 per annum per vehicle?", Council-

man Powell replying, "yes". However, he cautioned, this by no means indicates that the police power is relinquished or lessened in any degree.

Councilman Hitchcock reported he had had a complaint from Harvel Guttentfelder, owner of, "Harvel's Service Station", relative to the taxi stand adjacent to his place of business, and, asked Councilman Hitchcock, on what authority was this stand allowed. Chief Stroh replied that the City Council had granted this stand to George Mort, and that the curb had been painted in the particular area mentioned, instead of one more car length forward on Cravens Avenue, to allow room for the hook and ladder fire apparatus to get out of the fire station across the street.

A short discussion ensued relative to granting taxicab operators exclusive parking privileges, or, "taxi stands", it being the consensus of opinion that, unless a halt is called, there will be no parking space left for private cars. The opinion was expressed that taxicabs could search for unrestricted parking spaces the same as private automobiles do.

Councilman Powell moved that the Chief of Police be authorized not to grant any more taxi stands in the City of Torrance pending completion of the new taxicab ordinance. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Chief Stroh asked whether or not this means that Miss Bruce, who has one taxi stand, can park her taxicabs in any available unrestricted parking space for the purpose of carrying on the taxicab business, Councilman Cucci's reply being in the affirmative.

It appeared to be the opinion of the Council that the new taxicab ordinance will solve all problems in connection with the City's control of the taxicab business, and Mr. McCall was urged to hasten completion of same.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Engineers, Taylor and Taylor, the protest of Dr. Ellinwood against inclusion of the Ellinwood Ranch in the proposed Walteria, South-Torrance water district be overruled, and that the property be included. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock reported that he had received several suggestions from Engineer Jain in connection with the North Torrance Water Well, but preferred to discuss the matter further with Mr. Jain before acting upon them, with the exception of one suggestion, whereupon he moved that an appropriation of \$475.00 be made for the repair of the North Torrance water well, work to be done by the Water Well Equipment Company, and the addition of sufficient length of pump column to reach the new level of the water in the well. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$100.00 be made for 80 tons decomposed granite for the Park Department Garages. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell reported he had been approached by several citizens who called attention to a hazardous traffic situation created since the new employment office has been constructed at the corner of Gramercy Avenue and Cravens Avenue, inasmuch as the view to the intersection is obstructed to such an extent that the automobile is practically in the intersection before the driver is enabled to get a clear view of oncoming traffic. He suggested that boulevard stop signs be erected on Gramercy Avenue at both approaches to Cravens Avenue. He asked Chief Stroh to bring in a recommendation at the next meeting as to whether or not these signs should be installed.

Chief Stroh acknowledged that this is a dangerous corner and agreed to contact the Automobile Club and report at the next meeting. He said the Automobile Club is experiencing some difficulty in supplying necessary stop signs, due to the fact that reflectors are not available.

Councilman Powell also suggested that, now that the employment office is open, many parked cars line Gramercy Avenue, making that street very narrow for the busses to travel. He said he had noticed both the Greyhound and Torrance busses traveling down Cabrillo, then west on Carson Street, and wondered if the busses had been re-routed. He said he thought it would be well to do so if it had not been officially done. Councilman Cucci said, pending the suit to determine legality of the sale of the Bus Lines, no steps had been taken to effect any changes in the Bus Lines in that respect as yet, and asked for a little time to consider the matter. He said he personally thought the busses should be re-routed off Gramercy Avenue since it has become crowded.

Councilman Cucci announced that the suit to determine the legality of the sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines will be heard in Department 34, Los Angeles City Hall, on October 8, 1945, and invited all those interested to be there at about 9:30 A.M.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$269.06 be made for 150 meter boxes for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A delegation of citizens and property owners from Hollywood Riviera were present in the Council Chamber and various ones addressed the Council relative to conditions in their district. It was stated that practically no service of any kind has been rendered in that area for three or four years, and that, as a result, the entire Hollywood Riviera section is in a deplorable state. They asked if the weeds could be burned, mainly because they constitute a definite fire hazard, and secondly because they are unsightly. Also, it was stated that many trees are diseased and dead and very much in need of either removal or attention.

The streets, it was said, are in a dreadful condition, full of holes, with lengths of as much as 150 feet unpaved.

Mr. Close, one of the gentlemen of the delegation, stressed the seriousness of the situation, advising that there is a seven million dollar investment represented by forty-four families at stake, and urged the Council to endeavor to correct the conditions named. He said that the City had started several streets but left them unfinished. He said, also, that among other intolerable conditions, the water is very bad, and there is a great need for a sanitary sewer, as all the Riviera families have only cesspools.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Mr. Close to submit a list of the streets referred to as in need of completion and repairs to City Engineer Jain, which he said he would be glad to do.

Mayor Tolson said that, in relation to the sewer question, it is hoped that the outfall sewer system so long hoped for will materialize in the near future, and that it will satisfactorily serve the Hollywood Riviera section.

The matter of fire protection was also discussed, with several of the ladies of the delegation stating they live in constant fear and dread of an outbreak of fire in the district.

The following members of the delegation, among others, addressed the Council during the above discussion: Mr. C. E. McMoran, Mrs. Whitney, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Close and Mr. Peterson.

Councilman Hitchcock thanked the ladies and gentlemen for their attitude of genuine sincerity in their manner of presenting these problems, and said he felt convinced the Council will do everything possible to alleviate the conditions named. He asked Chief McMaster for suggestions relative to burning the weeds.

Chief McMaster stated that, during the past few years, he has been short of help and unable to attend to everything he would like

